

CHAOS!
ON THE EDGE

Lady Death

#2

(of 4)

Dec.
2001

\$2.99

\$4.60
Canada

Last Rites



Ostrander • Reis • Pimentel • Hi-Fi

Lady Death®

Last Rites #2 *"Beware What You Seek"*

Lady Death has found herself ALIVE and once more on the planet Earth, in New York City, but without any memory of who she was. She has been befriended by VIRGIL SOLOMON, the ghost of a slain police detective, and has, in turn, befriended young SARAH WILSON who, with her brother Tommy, lives with their Uncle Ralph. In a battle with the Chaos avatar, INNSMOUTH, Lady Death and Virgil discovered hundreds of soul jars in his lair; bottles containing human souls. Lady Death has vowed to find a way to free them. Lady Death has also tried to free Ralph from his personal demons only to find, to her disgust, that he clings to them. Meanwhile, the Lords of Chaos have sent a new avatar – VILE – to claim Sarah's soul.

written by: John Ostrander

illustrated by: Ivan Reis

inked by: Joe Pimentel

colored by: Hi-Fi

lettered by: Comicraft's Jimmy Betancourt

standard cover by: Carlos Mota • Walden Wong • Hi-Fi

variant cover by: Derrick Gross

edited by: Mike Francis

story editor: Brian Pulido

graphic design by: Mike Flippin

CHAOS COMICS, INC.: President/Publisher - BRIAN PULIDO • Vice President - FRANCIS J. PULIDO • Vice President of Internal Operations - ADAM GOLDFINE • Marketing Director - CHAD SOLMAN • Managing Editor - MIKE FRANCIS • Counselor - CHRISTINE Fuentetaja • Senior Graphic Designer - MIKE FLIPPIN • Graphic Designer - PETE SPETER • Customer Service Manager - ANTONIO LEMDO • Shipping and Receiving Manager - A.J. LARICA • Shipping and Receiving Assistant - Tara O'Hara • Director of Sales - MARIE CROALL • Tour Manager - FRANK BRIDEA

Lady Death: Last Rites #2, December 2001. FIRST PRINTING. Published by Chaos Comics. Brian Pulido, President/Publisher. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 7655 E. Gelding Rd., Suite B-1, Scottsdale, AZ 85260. Chaos Comics and all associated characters are trademarks owned by Chaos Comics, Inc. ©2001 Chaos Comics, Inc. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. Any similarity to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the consent of BRIAN PULIDO. Publisher assumes no responsibility for unsolicited materials. PRINTED IN CANADA.

WE ALL MUST SLEEP.

MIND, BODY, AND SOUL, WE NEED THE RESTORATION THAT ONLY SLEEP PROVIDES. FOR SOME, HOWEVER, SLEEP DOES NOT COME EASILY OR, IF IT DOES, IT IS NOT RESTFUL.

FOR SOME, THEIR DREAMSCAPE IS NOT A REFUGE BUT A BATTLE ZONE AND IT IS NOT REST THAT THEY FIND, BUT WAR.

HERE, WITHIN HER SANCTUARY, LADY DEATH FINDS NO HAVEN FOR HER SOUL.



AND HER NIGHTMARES
ARE A GATEWAY TO HELL.

YOU
KILLED
ME!

YOU
TOOK MY
LIFE!

I'M DEAD
BECAUSE OF
YOU!

COME
WITH US!

COME
WHERE YOU
BELONG.

IN THE
GRAVE. WITH
US.

LADY
DEATH

LADY
DEATH

LADY
DEATH

LADY D!
WAKE UP!





YOU OKAY?
YOU LOOKED TO
BE HAVING THE
MOTHER OF ALL
NIGHTMARES.

I WAS DOWN
AMONG THE DEAD...
THEY WERE CLUTCHING
ME, DRAWING ME INTO
THEIR GRAVES... AND THERE
WAS THIS... WOMAN...
LAUGHING AT ME... BUT I
THINK IT WAS ME...



WHO AM I, VIRGIL? THIS TIME, THIS
PLACE, FEELS ALIEN TO ME! WHAT
AM I? I HAVE ONLY **SHARDS** OF
ANSWERS YET I BEGIN TO **DREAD**
WHAT THOSE ANSWERS
MIGHT BE!

I SOMETIMES
THINK I AM A WOMAN
CURSED.



YOU'RE A
COMPLICATED
WOMAN, LADY D, AND
THAT'S FOR SURE. DON'T
KNOW IF YOU'RE A **GOOD**
PERSON; I DON'T EVEN
KNOW IF THAT **APPLIES**
TO YOU.



YOU'VE GOT
GUTS, THOUGH, AND
YOU'VE STOOD BY ME
AND BY SARAH AND THAT
MEANS SOMETHING.
IT DOES TO **ME**,
ANYWAY.

YOU ARE
DESERVING
OF MY LOYALTY,
VIRGIL.

COME. I
MADE A VOW IN
THE LAIR OF
INNSMOUTH AND
IT IS TIME I KEPT
MY WORD.



SOMETIMES THIS IS A HARSH WORLD.
SOMETIMES IT SEEMS TO MAKE WAR UPON
THE INNOCENT. SOMETIMES IT SEEEMS
THAT INNOCENCE IS A CRIME TO BE PUNISHED.

SO IT SEEMS HERE,
IN THIS SHABBY APARTMENT,
ONLY BLOCKS AWAY.

WHAT A
FREAKIN'
MESS.

WHAT'RE
WE DEALIN' WITH
HERE?



FREAKIN'
KIDDY
TARTAR.

TWO KIDS, MAYBE
EIGHT AND THIRTEEN,
DETECTIVE. SLASHED
TO HAMBURGER.

ANY
SUSPECTS?



OPEN AND SHUT. THE **MOTHER** DID IT. POOR,
OVERWHELMED, LIVING IN THIS RATHOLE --
SHE MUST HAVE SNAPPED.

SHE'S UNDER
GUARD IN THE
KITCHEN.

C'MON,
MICK.









DAMN
DAMN
DAMN!



HEE HEE
HEEHEEHEE!



OKAY, HERE'S
WHAT WENT DOWN!
MOMS WENT NUTSO
AND GRABBED FOR
YOUR GUN! YOU WERE
FORCED TO SHOOT
HER!

BUT BUT
BUT WHAT WAS
THAT WHITE
FOG?!

THERE *WASN'T* ANY WHITE FOG,
ASSHOLE! YOU START TALKIN' ABOUT
SOME FREAKIN' WHITE FOG AND
YOU'RE GOING TO WIND UP IN
FREAKIN' BELLEVUE AND YOUR
PENSION GOES FREAKIN'
BYE-BYE!

TELL THE
STORY LIKE WE
TELL YA AND YOU'RE
A FREAKIN HERO!
GOT IT?!



ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT,
COOL IT! PERP WENT
BALLISTIC AND CONROY
HERE WAS FORCED TO PUT
HER DOWN. GET FORENSICS
IN AND WE'LL GIVE OUR
STATEMENTS.





THE STREET IS ANOTHER WARZONE. HERE, REALITY IS THE ENEMY AND HOPE IS THE CASUALTY. THE RAIN SLUICES OFF WHAT SUNLIGHT IS LEFT IN THE DAY AS SARAH'S UNCLE RALPH MAKES HIS WAY TO WORK. BESET WITH PERSONAL DEMONS ONLY HE CAN SEE.





YOU. YOU HAVE CHILDREN. YOU HAVE CHILDREN WHO NEED *PROTECTING*. THEY MUST BE *SAVED*. THEIR INNOCENCE *PRESERVED*.

HKKK!



NO NO NO! I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT ME TO DO! I *CAN'T!* THEY'RE MY BROTHER'S KIDS!

THEY MUST BE PROTECTED. THEY MUST BE SAVED. BUT YOU KNOW WHAT THE WORLD IS LIKE. YOU KNOW WHAT *MUST* HAPPEN. YOU KNOW THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO MAKE THEM *SAFE*.



SAVE THE CHILDREN...

YES. BUT THIS WORLD IS SO CORRUPT. HOW CAN YOU *TRULY* PROTECT THEM. SAVE THEM FOR ALL TIME?



KILL THE BODIES. SAVE THE SOULS.

SAVE

KILL



THAT'S RIGHT. WE MUST *KILL* THE CHILDREN TO *SAVE* THEM.

THESE STREETS MAKE IT HARD TO SAVE THE CHILDREN, HARD TO BE A CHILD. SO MANY DIE BEFORE THEY ARE 21, SO MANY GIVE UP BEFORE THEY BEGIN. IT TAKES COURAGE TO HAVE FAITH AND HOPE.

YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY? YOU DIDN'T LOOK SO GOOD WHEN THE LADY BROUGHT YOU HOME LAST NIGHT.

YES, THE MEDICINE UNCLE RALPH GOT HELPED A LOT. DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME! LISTEN, I SAVED MY LUNCH MONEY TODAY. I WASN'T HUNGRY. WANT TO GET AN ICE CREAM?

CAN I GET A COMIC BOOK?

I'M SORRY, TOMMY. WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY FOR A COMIC BOOK. MAYBE JUST THE ICE CREAM, OKAY?



YO YO YO! BIG SISTAH, L'IL BROTHAH! SPECIAL DEAL TODAY ONLY! GOT A MAN GIVIN' THE CANDY AWAY FOR FREE! THA'S RIGHT! COZ YOU BE WID ME! COME ALONG, TAKE A TASTE, KNOWWHUTUMSAYIN'?



FREE CANDY?



STEVIE SAYS HE GOT'S FREE CANDY, SARAH!

STEVIE ISN'T TALKING ABOUT "CANDY", TOMMY! HE'S TALKING ABOUT DRUGS AND THERE'S NOTHING FREE ABOUT IT! JUST KEEP WALKING, OKAY?



YO! WHAT'S YO' PROBLEM, BITCH?! TOO DAMN STUCK UP TO SPEAK TO US?!



SCREW HER. DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOOD! S'ARIGHT! MORE FO' THE REST OF US! I'LL TAKE Y'ALL AROUND TO MY MAIN MAN, LEVI, AND HE DO YOU RIGHT! WORD!

DEEP IN THE BASEMENT
OF THE CHAOS SERVANT,
INNSMOUTH, LADY DEATH RETURNS
TO MAKE GOOD A PROMISE...

THIS
OFFENDS
ME.

BOTHERS
ME, TOO, ME BEING
A GHOST AND ALL. I
COULD'VE WOUND UP LIKE
THEM, A BOTTLED SOUL,
WOULD'VE, TOO, IF IT HADN'T
BEEN FOR YOU, LADY D.
QUESTION IS -- HOW DO
WE SET THESE CAGED
SPIRITS *FREE*?

DO YOU
KNOW FOR A
FACT THAT DOING
THAT WON'T COOK
THE SOULS, YOU'RE
TRYING TO
SAVE?

SHATTER
THE CAGES.

WELL...

THOUGHT
NOT, LADY D, I
KNOW YOU LIKE THE
STRAIGHTFORWARD PATH
BUT THIS MAY REQUIRE
SOME CONSIDERATION.
CAN'T SOLVE EVERY
PROBLEM BY
HACKING
AT IT.

I WAS
HERE EARLIER,
WHILE YOU SLEPT,
SCOPING THINGS
OUT.

FOUND THIS
BOOK CHAINED TO
THE WALL -- WHICH I
CONSIDERED PECULIAR.
IT'S A GRIMMOIRE --
A RECIPE BOOK FOR
MAGIC SPELLS.

HOW DO
YOU KNOW
ALL THIS?

STUDIED A
LOT OF MYTHOLOGY
AS A KID. NAME LIKE
VIRGIL SOLOMON? C'MON!
GOT HANDED A LOT OF THE
STRANGE, WEIRD CASES,
TOO, WHEN I WAS ALIVE
AND A COP.

THE ANSWER
WE'RE LOOKING FOR
MAY BE IN THERE BUT
IT'S LOCKED UP TIGHT
AND WE DON'T HAVE
ANY KEY.



IT HAVE ONE.

BY THE ABYSS!

YOU KNOW, SOMETIMES THINGS ARE LOCKED FOR A REASON...!

YOU ARE DECIDEDLY NOT INNSMOUTH. DID MY MASTER SEND YOU?

I HAVE DEFEATED INNSMOUTH AND WHAT WAS HIS, BY RIGHT OF CONQUEST, IS NOW MINE!

SPEAK, I COMMAND YOU! WHAT MANNER OF BEAST ARE YOU - CHAOS OR ORDER? ARE YOU THE GUARDIAN OF THE GRIMMOIRE?



I SPEAK BECAUSE
I CHOOSE TO SPEAK.
I AM BOTH BOOK AND
GUARDIAN -- I AM
GRIMMOIRE.

I KNOW
YOU -- LADY
DEATH, ONCE UPON
A TIME THE PALE
SKINNED DIVA
OF DEATH.



WOULD IT
SURPRISE YOU, LITTLE
ONE, TO DISCOVER I KNOW
ALL ABOUT YOU? WHO YOU
WERE, WHAT YOU WERE, ALL
THAT YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN,
ALL THAT IS PLANNED
FOR YOU?



TELL
ME!

I WILL
NOT.

KNOWLEDGE
IS POWER. WHEN I
SHARE MY KNOWLEDGE,
I LESSEN MY POWER.
I WILL KEEP WHAT
IS MINE.



I WILL TEAR
YOUR SECRETS
FROM YOU!

HOW? YOU
CANNOT HARM
WHAT YOU CANNOT
TOUCH, LADY. BUT
I WILL OFFER YOU
A BARGAIN.



FREE ME
AND I WILL SHARE
WHAT I KNOW
ABOUT YOU.

CAREFUL,
LADY D! IF THIS GUY
IS A DJINN, THEY WERE
ALL DEMONS WHO WERE
IMPRISONED. YOU DON'T KNOW
YOU CAN TRUST WHAT
HE TELLS YOU!



WOULD YOU BE AS RELUCTANT,
I WONDER, WERE I WILLING TO
TELL YOU WHO IT WAS THAT
MURDERED YOU?

INFORMATION IS
ONLY AS GOOD AS ITS SOURCE.
YOU'RE PLAYING **GAMES**, MISTER,
AND I DON'T LIKE THAT! I SAY
WE **LEAVE** THIS JOKER, LADY D!



CHANK!

I
CAN'T DO
THAT!
I HAVE
TO KNOW WHO
I AM!



MY THANKS,
LADY. YOU HAVE
PLAYED FAIR BY ME
AND NOW I SHALL
DO THE SAME
BY YOU.



LOOK INTO
MY EYES AND
KNOW THE
TRUTH.





IT'S NOT TRUE!

OH, BUT IT IS! DEEP IN YOUR HEART, YOU KNOW IT'S TRUE!

LADY D! WHAT IS IT! WHAT DID HE TELL YOU?!

I SHOWED HER THE TRUTH! THAT SHE IS RESPONSIBLE, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY FOR THE DEATHS OF MILLIONS!

LIES!

TRUTH! TO ESCAPE DEATH, YOU WENT LIVING TO HELL!

CURSED NEVER TO RETURN SO LONG AS ONE LIVING THING EXISTED ON EARTH, YOU PLOTTED TO COMMIT *MEGADEATH* -- THE EXTERMINATION OF ALL THAT LIVE -- JUST SO YOU COULD WALK THE EARTH ALIVE AGAIN!

NO!



YES!
HEAVEN AND
HELL NO LONGER
EXIST BECAUSE OF
YOU! ASGARD IS GONE!
YOUR EXISTENCE IS AN
ORGY OF BLOOD! YOU
HAVE FOUGHT WAR
AFTER WAR AND
LEARNED NOTHING
FROM IT!

WHY ELSE
WERE YOU NAMED
LADY DEATH?! AND
DEEP IN THE PIT OF
YOUR SOUL YOU
KNOW WHAT I HAVE
SHOWN YOU IS
TRUE!

YES...
IT'S
TRUE...!

THE
TRUTH, HUH?
THE *WHOLE*
TRUTH AND
NOTHING BUT
THE TRUTH?

LADY D,
LISTEN TO
ME! THERE MAY
BE TRUTH TO
WHAT HE SHOWED
YOU BUT IT'S NOT THE
WHOLE STORY!
THERE'S *MORE*
TO YOU THAN
THAT?

NO, I
THOUGHT NOT.
I'VE SEEN GUYS
LIKE YOU BEFORE.
YOU TAKE A *PIECE*
OF THE TRUTH AND
THEN USE IT LIE
A CLUB!

WHEN HE
SHOWED ME ALL
THE BATTLES I HAD
FOUGHT AND ALL THE
DEATHS I HAD CAUSED,
A PART OF ME *LUSTED*
AFTER IT! I TASTED THE
BLOOD IN MY MOUTH
AGAIN AND I FELT
JOY!

FOR ALL WE
KNOW, VIRGIL, I
MAY HAVE BEEN
BEHIND *YOUR*
MURDER!



I WANTED SO BADLY TO KNOW WHO I WAS AND NOW I DO.
I'M A MONSTER

SCANT STREETS AWAY, OTHER PLAYERS ARE IN MOTION AND A CIRCLE STARTS TO DRAW TIGHTER AS CORRUPTION IN PHYSICAL FORM PLIES ITS TRADE.

HERE YOU GO, BABIES --
UNCLE LEVI GOT A TASTE
FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE
OF YOU LI'L DARLINGS!
YES, I DO!

IF YOU LIKE
IT -- AND I KNOW
YOU WILL -- THEN
YOU COME BACK AND
SEE OL' UNCLE LEVI
AND WE'LL MAKE
ARRANGEMENTS
FOR YOU TO
HAVE SOME
MORE!

AND YOU IN
PARTICULAR, LIL
CUPCAKE -- DON'T
WORRY ABOUT THE
COST. I'M SURE
WE'LL BE ABLE TO
WORK SOMETHING
OUT, OKAY? RUN
ALONG NOW.

OKAY, LIKE, I BROUGHT YOU
SOME OTHERS, RIGHT LEVI?
I DONE WHAT YOU ASK, RIGHT?
SO HOW ABOUT MY FREE
TASTE? LIKE YOU SAID,
KNOWHATUMSAYIN'!
WHERE'S MINE?!



WHAK

THEY DIDN'T
BUY ANYTHING YET,
DID THEY? UNTIL THEY
DO, YOU DON'T GET
NOTHIN'!

I KNOW
YOU ARE, STEVIE,
AND I FEEL FOR YOU.
REALLY, LISTEN, YOU
HELP ME A LITTLE, I
HELP YOU, OKAY? I'M
LOOKING FOR SOMEONE.
MAYBE YOU CAN HELP
ME FIND HER.

YOUNG GIRL.
LIVES SOMEWHERE
IN THE 'HOOD. MAYBE
GOES TO SCHOOL WHERE
YOU USED TO GO TO SCHOOL.
HER NAME'S SARAH
WILSON.

HER? STUCK
UP SNOOTY LITTLE
BITCH?! YEAH YEAH YEAH!
I KNOW HER! I SEEN HER
AROUND! I CAN FIND HER FOR
YOU, LEVI! ABSOLUTELY!
GUARANTEED!

PLEASE
LEVI PLEASE I
NEED SOMETHIN'
I'M BURNIN' UP
INSIDE.

LOOKIN'
FOR WHO?

YOU THE MAN,
STEVIE! LISTEN, TELL
ME WHERE TO FIND HER OR
BRING HER TO ME AND IT'S A
LIFETIME SUPPLY OF THE
SWEET STUFF FOR YOU,
KNOWHATUMSAYIN'?

YEAH YEAH,
MAN! I CAN DO IT!
I KNOW ALL THE
PLACES! I'LL SNIFF
THE BITCH OUT FOR
YOU, LEVI!

I KNOW
YOU WILL, STEVIE.
I KNOW YOU
WILL.



"YOU'RE GONNA TAKE ME RIGHT WHERE L'IL SARAH LIVES."

YOU GET STARTED ON YOUR HOMEWORK, TOMMY, AND I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN PUT TOGETHER FOR DINNER.

GET OUT.



UNCLE RALPH! I THOUGHT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE AT WORK!

GET OUT.

I'VE TRIED DROWNING IT. THE VOICE INSIDE ME. IT'S NOT WORKING.

DAMN KIDS ALL THEIR FAULT



YOU'RE DRUNK AGAIN!

HAVE TO... CAN'T HELP 'SELF... CAN'T STOP...!



I HAVE TO SAVE YOU CHILDREN! SAVE YOUR INNOCENCE! YOUR SANCTITY!

SAVE THEM KILL THEM



AND THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE YOU IS TO KILL YOU!

TO BE CONTINUED!